

January 25, 1984

LB 470

SENATOR MARSH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature. Now we will start all over. The amendment is before you. This clarifies that part of this could be adopted to the committee amendments and part could not and I chose to keep it together and Senator Fenger clarified the bill. This was introduced by the Performance, Review and Audit Committee which as you all know is made up of members of the Appropriations Committee and the Chair of the committee in which it is concerned. I would like to lift out for your information that there is in the current bill, wording which was an improper delegation of the procedures which needed to be clarified. A licensed dental hygienist may do whatever the general public can do, namely anything which is not the practice of dentistry plus scaling and polishing of teeth in the oral prophylaxis procedure. We have talked about dental hygienists on this floor for three years. You are aware that a dental hygienist may only work in conjunction with a dental practice headed by a Doctor of Dental Surgery, D.D.S. We are aware that no dentist will be forced to practice differently than she or he chooses to do so after the adoption of this amendment. Each of my comments made previously is still the impact. We are defining three levels of supervision. We are allowing the employment of dental hygienists by the licensed dentists. We list the eleven traditional dental hygiene procedures and we list the two procedures which may be performed only under direct or indirect supervision and the procedures must be, I emphasize, the procedures must be authorized by the supervising dentist so the dentists have the control in this arena. It also would expand the power of the Board of Dental Examiners to better define the practice of dental hygiene and take into account the newly developed procedures. I want to emphasize one very important section. There is a specific section which prohibits dental hygienists practicing independently. I would like to repeat that. Section 7, there is included a specific clause which prohibits dental hygienists practicing independent from the supervision and the authorization of licensed dentists. I move for the adoption of the amendment.

SENATOR KAHLE: Senator Kilgarin.

SENATOR KILGARIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Everything in